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SERIAL NO: 09/269,607

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EXAMINER: Fields, I.

INVENTOR: Ebringer

TITLE: Diagnosis of Spongiform Disease



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RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION, 37 CFR §1.111

In response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2001, the time period for response thereto being set to expire April 2, 2002, by virtue of the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration in view of the following amendment and accompanying remarks, the Rule 132 Declaration of inventor Alan Ebringer, and the Substitute Sequence List, submitted herewith.

#12/A
Jm
4/29/02

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, please delete the entire paragraph at lines 14-22, and insert in its place the following paragraph:

A
1
A characteristic histopathological feature of BSE is a "spongiform" appearance, which also occurs in chronic but not acute "experimental allergic encephalomyelitis" (EAE), at least in rabbits and guinea pigs. A short sequence of bovine myelin (FSV'GAEGQK) (SEQ. ID. NO: 1), which withstands denaturation following heating to 100°C for one hour, was reported over twenty-five years ago to produce hind quarters paralysis, tremors and death, following inoculation into guinea pigs, which to some extent resembles the features observed in cattle suffering from BSE. In accordance with the present invention, this sequence has been used as a computer probe to search for proteins showing molecular mimicry. This sequence, in denatured form, may be described as encephalitogenic.